

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-V-09-22

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 12, 2022.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2022 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the regulatory action taken in Emergency Order 3-KS-V-02-22 issued May 1, 2022 and maintains the king salmon sport fishing closure in the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay drainages). In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.

All king salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. (c)(3)(A) and (B) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 12 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2022:

5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.

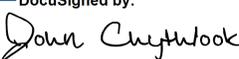
(c)(3)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of salmon, other than king salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

(d)(1)(G) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area not specified in (d)(1)(A – F).

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

DocuSigned by:


By delegation to:


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John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2021 the estimated total run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was approximately 129,751 and the spawning escapement was approximately 101,000. In 2021, the drainagewide escapement goal (65,000–120,000) was attained, however, there were substantial closures of the subsistence fishery. Restrictions to the subsistence king salmon fishery have occurred in 2022, notably the front-end closure of the subsistence fishery through June 11, and rolling closures in the subsistence fishery thereafter. The 2022 forecasted range of king salmon returning to the Kuskokwim River drainage is 99,000–161,000. Though it is early in the season, both Bethel Test Fish and the Kuskokwim Sonar have not seen a large number of king salmon past those projects at this time.

The current restrictions of the subsistence salmon fishery on the Kuskokwim River in 2022 warrant a total closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that a majority of the king salmon escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Kuskokwim River drainage will be met, restrictions may be relaxed.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 3-KS-V-02-22 closed sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage from May 1 through June 11. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure could be used in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area under this emergency order. Emergency Order 3-KS-V-08-22 extends this closure and gear restriction through the end of the king salmon season.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.